

**Claims**

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are shown below.

1. (Previously Presented) A method for providing redundancy for a card in a chassis, the method comprising:

providing first and second cards in a chassis, each card having an output node connectable to a common bus and each having a respective input node;

providing a facilitator card in the chassis, the facilitator card having an input node connectable to the common bus and an output node;

connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the redundancy facilitator card; and

coupling the input node of the first card to the input node of the second card to provide redundancy for the first card by connecting the input node of the first card to the associated output node of the first, card.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the redundancy facilitator card comprises connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the facilitator card by a cable.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the facilitator card by a cable comprises connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the facilitator card by a twenty-five pair cable.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein connecting the input node of the first card to the associated output node of the first card comprises connecting the input node of the first card to the output node of the first card after determining that a failure has occurred in the first card.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein providing first and second cards comprises providing a line card and the second card.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein providing first and second cards comprises providing a network interface card and the second card.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the facilitator card comprises connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the redundancy facilitator card by a cable and a pair of interface connectors, the interface connectors disposed on a backplane of the chassis.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein providing first and second cards comprises providing first and second cards each comprising circuitry operable to perform a desired telecommunication function and each comprising a switch operable to selectivity connect the input node of the card to either the output node or the circuitry of the card.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the facilitator card further comprises connecting the input node of the second card to a first interface connector located on a backplane of the chassis and connecting the output node of the facilitator card to a second interface connector located on the backplane.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the facilitator card further comprises connecting the first interface connector to the second interface connector by a cable.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein connecting the first interface connector to the second interface connector by a cable comprises connecting the first interface connector to the second interface connector by a twenty-five pin cable.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the facilitator card further comprises connecting the first interface connector to the second interface connector by conductors formed on the backplane.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein providing first and second cards in a chassis comprises providing first and second cards in a chassis, each card having an output node connectable to a common bus and each having a respective input node formed on a backplane of the chassis.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for facilitating testing of subscriber lines, the method comprising:

providing first and second cards in a chassis, each card having an output node connectable to a common bus and each having a respective input node;

providing a test card in the chassis, the test card having an input node connectable to the common bus, an output node, and test circuitry;

connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the test card;

connecting the input node of the first card to the output node of the first card; and

coupling the input node of the first card to the test circuitry by connecting the input node of the test card to the test circuitry.

15. (Original ) The method of Claim 14, wherein connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the test card comprises connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the test card by a cable.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the test card by a cable comprises connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the test card by a twenty-five pair cable.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14, wherein providing first and second cards comprises providing a line card and the second card.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14, wherein providing first and second cards comprises providing a network interface card and the second card.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14, wherein connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the test card comprises connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the test card by a cable and a pair of interface connectors disposed on a backplane of the chassis.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14, wherein providing the first and second cards comprises providing first and second cards each comprising circuitry operable to perform a desired telecommunication function and comprising a switch operable to selectively connect the input node of the card to either the output node or the circuitry of the card.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the test card further comprises connecting the input node of the second card to a first interface connector located on a backplane of the chassis and connecting the output node of the test card to a second interface connector located on the backplane.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 21, wherein connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the test card further comprises connecting the first interface connector to the second interface connector by a cable.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein connecting the first interface connector to the second interface connector by a cable comprises connecting the first interface connector to the second interface connector by a twenty-five pin cable.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 21, wherein connecting the input node of the second card to the output node of the test card further comprises connecting the first interface connector to the second interface connector by conductors formed on the backplane.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14, wherein providing first and second cards in a chassis, each card having an output node connectable to a common bus and each having an output node connectable to a common bus comprises providing first and

second cards in a chassis, each card having an output node connectable to a common bus formed on a backplane of the chassis and each having a respective input node.

26. (Original) An apparatus comprising:  
a chassis having a plurality of slots and a backplane;  
first and second telecommunications cards disposed in respective ones of the plurality of slots, the first and second cards each having:  
an input node;  
an output node;  
card logic; and  
a switch operable to selectively connect the input node of the card to either the output node of the card or the card logic;  
a facilitator card disposed in one of the plurality of slots, the facilitator card having an input node, an output node, and a first connector operable to connect the input node of the facilitator card to the output node of the facilitator card;  
wherein the backplane comprises a bus connected to the output nodes of the first and second cards and the input node of the facilitator card; and  
a second connector connecting the output node of the facilitator card to the input node of the second card.

27. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the second connector comprises a cable.

28. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein the second connector further comprises a pair of interface connectors.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the second connector comprises a twenty-five pin connector.

30. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the first connector comprises a switch.

31. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the first connector comprises a conductor connecting the input node of the facilitator card to the output node of the facilitator card.

32. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein the facilitator card further comprises test circuitry and the switch is further operable to selectively connect the input node of the facilitator card to the test circuitry.

33. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the first and second cards each comprise line cards.

34. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the first and second cards each comprise network interface cards.

35. (Original) An apparatus comprising:  
a first card disposed in a chassis, the first card having an input node and an output node;  
a second card disposed in a chassis, the second card having an input node;  
a means for selectively connecting the input node of the first card to the output node of the first card; and  
a means for connecting the output node of the first card to the input node of the second card.

36. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein the first and second cards each comprise a line card.

37. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein the first and second cards each comprise a network interface card.